Dublin, February 14. 1868

My dear Friend

Rev. Samuel Mayo

I am greatly obliged to you for the Life of Isaiah Lummis. It reached me a few days ago, safe and sound. My time & thoughts have been much engaged since then, so that I have not had time to read it – but I am sure to do so soon & with uncommon interest for the sake of the subject of the book. I often wished to see it & hoped it would turn up in some circulating library – but it is much better to have the book so securely in the hand than to attempt it in the public as it would be in the latter case.

I have also a piece of news which I am sure will interest you for my sake. Within the last three months the Remains of my two daughters, Anna, aged about 29, died at a Sanatory establishment near the Moray Firth, (pronounced Murry) Firth, but have been taken in the North of Scotland. Here she met her intended husband, Mr Donald Steele, a native of Glenfinn, who had lately come home from the province of Cachar, in the North east of Bengal, in a portion of country ceded by or taken from the Burmese when they went to war with England or England with them some twenty years ago. There he is engaged in a tea plantation & has been a settler for nearly 10 years. He is now about 30. He did not pay any special attention to my daughter at Cheney Hill, but soon after her return

asked leave to visit her, which she did not positively refuse. However the end of the whole affair is that after an immensity short courtship she is soon to become Mrs Donald Steele and is to go to Cashmere by long sea via the Cape of good Hope to Calcutta, which will take 3 months. There the remaining 600 miles up the Jumna, the Brahmaputra and another river to Sikhar which is the nearest town to their plantation will take another month. However they may reach England by the overland route in 2 months which is satisfactory. I am told that the climate of India is very good for women & that they generally get excellent health, so that frequently when they return home they would be glad to go back again. I expect they will have time in my description enough — for she is a shilly shallying sentimental and heartless girl & better with her than cold.

Mr Steele is a healthy strong looking man & as far as we have seen him we like him. He seems to be a Christian is truthful, honorable and frank. He is unaffected & is well educated. They have been very friendly with me & I think cannot be accused of having tried to throw dust in each others eyes. His present venture is one of speculative confidence with a handful of little things. When I referred to money matters in between himself & me he disclaimed any desire to entertain the subject — and in such a manner that I have no doubt of his sincerity. He also thanked us for supplying him with much necessary equipments — which I have always looked on as a pretty good proof of a

in duration & an upright character. Perhaps you like Paris at this season for giving to many parts [illegible] I may perhaps see in Law (there is the first time I have written the word in my life) but you like me make my curiosity & the acceptance I may meet on the subject if you put yourself in the Lawyer's position & mine. I expect they will be in their way to Indies in 6 weeks at the furthest.

Knowing that you are rather robust health & are more out of the centre of affairs I have taken the trouble Frank Jervis with my compliments. I was greatly charmed with him as a good sensible unaffected man, disturbed me affected Fanny Bellew - & as I am Villiers the is a dear little woman - so bright, happy & kind that I was delighted to find her brother had a daughter to take whom we could take his daughter to.

My Lord Richard is here with us - and we think it very fortunate that he should be here at the time of his sisters engagement & marriage that he should have seen Richard his future brother in law.

My other daughter is in delicate health & fears the Lord has only suited with a great deference & it is likely to make a great change in our circumstances.

If I can go to U.S.A. it will be some time then Years - but then we mainly depend on Chatto I can

Sol my daughter comfortably settled in my absence. The advice in rheumatics or in absence of them – nothing at do commence with the hope of detection – & I am in hopes she may be brought round with the fine weather

Do you still return your specimens to the Standard Office Cornhill Newcastle?

Why does Mrs Child find the direction of her name to a little fallacy?

If you have no objection I would like your Cousin J. J. Hoey to see this letter.

Let me know where you can send a line & I will do the good people abroad.

It seems strange for me to be Richard to him from home a Continent three 8000 miles. He is safe & strong and is enjoying himself going round seeing his relations. He means to return to Newcastle in about two months, and is I think satisfied with his escape there.

With kind regards to Mrs & Miss Hoey

I am Yours very truly & truly obliged

Richard S Sibbald

MS. B. 1, 6 v. 1/5, p. 129